

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 21, 1911, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. HOTEL CHELSEA, Atlantic City, N. J. June 21st 1911. My darling Alec:

It is good to be once more in touch with you and to have some idea of what you are doing. I am so glad you seem well, happy and interested, for I am really needed here. It is all very well to talk about getting away from doctors when you can do without them, not when you need their help and Elsie has needed their help much more than I suspected. More than that even I venture to think she has needed just the quiet, the freedom from friction and responsibility she is getting here. Bert and she are perfectly devoted to each other and each thinks the other the one person in the world, but just now both are at about the limit of their endurance, he as well as she, and both need the patience and tact neither has the strength just now to give the other. It is rather pathetic to think of Bert trying to be mother as well as father to his little babies, and taking all his family, five of them at least, with a perfect retinue of nurses, governesses and household servants up the long journey to Baddeck. I can't imagine you submitting to such a performance as that will be, one man among all those women and children and I imagine he doesn't enjoy the prospect. But "Alec needs his father if not his mother and I must stay by him" he writes. So be nice to the poor fellow and do all you can for him when he arrives. The procession goes from New York to Halifax, thence by rail to Grand Narrows.

I will stay by Elsie until she is stronger and then bring her up, and Charles' Mary will attend us. I am so glad you liked 2 the Kia Ora, but sorry the motor misbehaved, I hope it won't again. Of course there will be changes to be made, but I would rather like to see them done myself if you don't mind.

Library of Congress

It was very nice and thoughtful of Maggie to think of you, please thank her for me and tell her that is just the sort of thing she can do for us.

It is still cool here, and we have not been able to have an airing without the use of protecting glass screens. We go out every day for 2 ½ to 3 hours, just roll along in one double roller chair or sit in it with our books. Elsie just gets up for the drive and goes right back to bed afterwards and the chair is brought to her room door.

Much love to you my dear, Mabel.